

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT ELIZABETH BENTLEY

FILE NO. 134-182

Sub A-1  
VOLUME NO. 1 and 2

SERIALS 1 and 2

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## NOTICE

**THE BEST COPIES OBTAINABLE ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THE FILE. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION AND OR COLOR OF THE ORIGINALS PROVIDED. THESE ARE THE BEST COPIES AVAILABLE.**

File No: 134-182Re: ELIZABETH T. BENTLEYDate: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released		
1	9/7/49	EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL OF ELIZABETH T. BENTLEY IN The U.S. DISTRICT COURT for the SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF N.Y.	-	-		COURT RECORDS NOT RE- LEASABLE THROUGH FOIPA
2	9/9/48	COPY OF HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EIGHTIETH CONGRESS - JULY 31; AUG. 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30; SEPT. 8, 9, 1948	-	-		DOCUMENT AVAILABLE THROUGH GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE

\*Designated to or from Bureau and/or Albuquerque, New York

VOLUME

SUB A-1(2)

REVIEWED BY

Elw/Elw

File No:

134-182

Re: ELIZABETH T. BENTLEY

Date: 3/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released		
1	7/7/55	1COPY EACH OF FOLLOWING:	-	-		ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE
		SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY				THROUGH GOVERNMENT
		SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMM.				PRINTING OFFICE
		ON THE JUDICIARY- HEARING				
		ON IPR, PART 2; SENATE				
		SUB-				
		IS. COMM. OF THE COMM.				
		IN GOVT. DEPTS. PART 16,				
	11/12/53	; SENATE ISS				
		OF THE COMM. ON THE				
		COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY,				
		REPORT ON INTERLOCKING				
		SUBVERSION IN GOVT 7/30/53				

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

ELIZABETH T.  
BENTLEY

SUBJECT ELIZABETH T.  
BENTLEY

FILE NO. 134-182

VOLUME NO. Sub A-2

SERIALS 3

THRU

12

## NOTICE

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VOLUME SUB-A 2REVIEWED BY llw/llwFile No: 134-182Re: Elizabeth T. BentleyDate: 4/78  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released		
3*	7/30/48	Testimony of E.T. Bentley before Investigations Subcommittee on Expenditures in the Executive Dept., U.S. Senate	50	0		Re. Export Policy and Loyalty
4*	5/49	Testimony of E.T. Bentley before U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization	21	0		Re. Communist Activities among Aliens and National Groups.
5*	5/6/49	Testimony of E.T. Bentley before H.C.U.A.	18	0		Re. Communism in the U.S. Government.
6*	10/21/53	Testimony of E.T. Bentley before Senate Subcommittee on Govt. Operations Abroad	10	0		Re. Transfer of Occupation Currency Plates-Espionage Phase
		*Documents 3, 4, 5 and 6 are copies of pages from a U.S. Govt. Printing Office document re. Transcripts of testimony before various Senate and Congressional Committees by Elizabeth Bentley on subjects and dates listed above. These documents are not being duplicated and released due to their availability thru the U.S. Govt. Printing Office,				
7	9/21/59	Letter N.Y. to HQ	3	3		
8	10/22/59	Letter N.H. to HQ	1	1		
9	7/22/60	Letter HQ to N.H.	3	3		

\*Designated to or from Bureau and/or Albuquerque, New York

File No: 134-182

Re: Elizabeth T. Bentley

Date: 4/78  
(month/year)

\*Designated to or from Bureau and/or Albuquerque, New York

U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU  
of  
INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 134-153

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT FILE UNIT

See also Nos. *Other files*

Date - 1-10-63

*Sam L. Smith*

RECEIVED BY C.I.U.S.

*[Signature]*

S-1

Volume No. \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-426205)

9/21/59

SAC, NEW YORK (100-138981)

STEPHEN FRANCIS VAUSE  
SM-C

Re Seattle letter to Director dated 9/11/59,  
captioned as above.

The pertinent portion of relet is being set  
forth below for the information of New Haven.

\*Rebulet to Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,  
Department of the Army dated 8/25/59.

For information of the New York Office, the  
Department of the Army has inquired from the Bureau as to  
whether certain sources who have furnished pertinent in-  
formation in the matter could be identified in a proceed-  
ing before a field board of inquiry to be convened under  
provisions of Army regulations 604-10 on the West Coast  
or Hawaii. The Department of the Army also requested as  
to whether there would be any objection to obtaining sworn  
or unsworn statements from these sources or to their utili-  
zation as witnesses at a hearing at some future date.

The Subject's stepfather is DONALD NIVEN WHEELER,  
who was identified by ELIZABETH T. BENTLEY as having been  
a former member of a Soviet espionage apparatus which  
operated in Washington, D. C. during the early 1940's. A  
report dated 4/22/49, at Washington, D. C. by SA DONALD D.  
CONNORS entitled: 'DONALD NIVEN WHEELER, SM-C' sets out on  
pages 3 and 4 the allegations by BENTLEY to the effect

- 2 - Bureau (100-426205) (RM)
- 2 - New Haven (RM)
- 1 - Seattle (100-23850) (RM)
- 1 - New York (134-182) (ADM)
- 1 - New York (100-138981)

KPU:s1b

(7) all

134-182A-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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SEP 21 1959	
FBI - NEW YORK	

NY 100-133981

that WHEELER was known to BENTLEY in 1944 and that WHEELER knew BENTLEY as HELEN. BENTLEY stated that WHEELER was a member of the PERLO group and that WHEELER held a position in the Research and Analysis Section of OSS and from this position WHEELER furnished information to the Soviet apparatus. BENTLEY was subsequently told by her Soviet superior, 'BILL', to inform WHEELER that he should curtail his activities since 'BILL' felt that WHEELER might be under suspicion of his agency. This report does not set out when or to whom BENTLEY furnished this information concerning WHEELER.

The New York Office is requested to advise the Bureau in the immediate future the following with respect to BENTLEY:

1. Can BENTLEY be identified before an Army hearing Board?
2. Can the Army obtain sworn or unsworn statements from BENTLEY?
3. Can the Army consider BENTLEY as a potential witness?

The Bureau requests that this investigation be handled according to instructions previously furnished in connections with interviews of potential witnesses for Coast Guard hearings.\*

For the information of Seattle and the Bureau, a review of BENTLEY'S NYO file reflects she was interviewed on 5/28/58, by New Haven. At that time she stated positively that she had decided that she must put a complete stop to further interviews with Government agencies, including the FBI, and that she wanted to go on notice that she was no longer available for these inquiries. She further stated that if there was any change in this decision of hers that she would so advise the New Haven Office.

NY 100-138981

According to information available to the NYO, the next contact with BENTLEY by New Haven was on 4/27/59, at which time BENTLEY stated there was no change in the position she had previously expressed on 5/28/58.

By Bureau letter to New Haven dated 2/25/59, concerning future contacts with BENTLEY, the Bureau advised that New Haven should obtain specific Bureau authority for any interviews with BENTLEY prior to contacting her. The letter further instructed that when leads were received by New Haven, the Bureau should be advised whether the lead is one that appears to have a valid basis for contacting BENTLEY and that an appropriate recommendation should be made as to whether or not BENTLEY should be contacted.

Inasmuch as BENTLEY is presently under the jurisdiction of the New Haven Division and in view of the above mentioned Bureau instructions regarding contacts with BENTLEY, New Haven is requested to expeditiously advise the Bureau and Seattle as to the answers to questions one through three as set forth above by Seattle.

RUC.

cx  
10/29

11-5

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-426205)

10/22/59

SAC, NEW HAVEN (100-17332)

STEPHEN FRANCIS VAUSE  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re New York letter to Bureau dated 9/21/59, concerning the identification and possible testimony of ELIZABETH BENTLEY before an Army field board of inquiry.

As noted in referenced New York letter, BENTLEY has repeatedly stated that she had decided to put a complete stop to further interviews with Government agencies, including the FBI.

With respect to the questions posed in relet:

1. The New Haven Office knows of no reason why BENTLEY could not be identified before an Army Hearing Board. She has published her activities on behalf of Soviet intelligence, including the Perlo group activities, and has testified before Congressional Committee re same.
2. and 3. This office is unable to state whether the Army can obtain a statement from BENTLEY or whether she would testify. Her recent personal history and attitude would indicate that she would not be willing to do either. This office has no objection to the Army making an effort.

For the information of Seattle, BENTLEY has recently accepted a position as an English teacher at the Long Lane School, a penal institution for young girls, operated by the State of Connecticut at Middletown, Connecticut. BENTLEY resides on the grounds of this school. RUC.

2 - Bureau (100-426205) (RM)  
2 - Seattle (100-23850) (RM)  
2 - New York (1 100-138981) (1 134-182) (RM)  
2 - New Haven (cc: 134-40)

SFD:md

(8)

412

adm

134-1821-8

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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OCT 22 1959	
FBI - NEW YORK	

J. P. J. S. H. 44

SAC, New Haven (65-1550)

~~TSP~~ ~~SECRET~~

7-22-60

Director, FBI (65-57905)

(u) → [REDACTED] (TS)  
[REDACTED] (TS) b1  
(GREGORY AND [REDACTED] (TS)  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re New Haven letter 7-31-60 captioned as above. Reference is also made to New York letter 4-29-60 and to New Haven report 5-6-60 concerning the unknown subjects in this case. (u)

It is noted that on 7-1-60 when Elizabeth Bentley was interviewed by Agents of the New Haven Office, Bentley appeared to be agreeable to further interview and that the basis for her decision was apparently the fact that the matters discussed with her were matters (u) of the utmost importance.

In connection with the present investigation, the New Haven Office, in a report dated 5-6-60, indicated that Bentley would be interviewed concerning Fredericka Martin who is presently considered a likely suspect for unknown subject Catherine. This interview was to be conducted in the event an approach to Bentley was approved by the Bureau. (u)

It is recognized that Elizabeth Bentley is the only source presently available who can identify a photo of one of the unknown subjects in this investigation, namely unknown subject Catherine. In reviewing the information developed concerning Fredericka Martin the following points have been noted at the Bureau concerning Fredericka Martin which tend to eliminate her as unknown subject Catherine: No information has been (u)

2 - New York (65-14737)

Classified by 5886 3/7/78  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

JUL 25 1980  
FBI - NEW YORK

~~TSP~~ ~~SECRET~~

134-182-A-9

Letter to New Haven (TS) b'  
RE: [REDACTED] (U)  
SUB; aka. Catherine (U)  
65-57905

developed indicating that Martin was pregnant during 1943-44. Also, certain personal characteristics, including facial features, manner of hair dress and manner of speech, are apparently lacking insofar as Martin is concerned in comparison to the known characteristics (U) of the unknown subject in this case.

The report of [REDACTED] dated 5-6-60 at New Haven which sets forth an interview with Dr. Lewis Fox concerning Fredericka Martin contains information to the effect that the artist's sketch of unknown Catherine was displayed to Dr. Fox and that he advised that the sketch of unknown subject Catherine did not resemble Fredericka Martin. It is noted that Dr. Fox apparently knew (U) Fredericka Martin some 20 years ago. b7c

In view of the above, the Bureau feels that there is insufficient basis for approaching Bentley for the sole purpose of showing a photo to Bentley of Fredericka Martin. The Bureau feels that the New York Office should furnish New Haven with photos of Fredericka Martin so that they will be available in the New Haven Office. In the event another occasion arises where a matter of utmost importance requires contacting Bentley, that occasion should be utilized to determine whether Bentley can identify a photo of Fredericka Martin or any other suspect that may be developed for unknown subject Catherine. It is recognized that the only definite manner in which Martin can be eliminated is through an interview with Bentley. However, it does not appear at this time that the characteristics of Martin are such as might make her a strong suspect for the unknown subject in (U) this case.

The New York Office should continue to review the present investigation for the purpose (U) of developing other logical suspects.

Letter to New Haven (TS)

RE:

UNSUB; aka. Catherine (U) 65-57905

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED] (TS)

With respect to further contacts with Elizabeth Bentley, the New Haven Office should be guided by the policy previously set forth, namely that Bentley shall not be contacted except in matters of the utmost importance to the Bureau and that contacts with her shall be made only after Bureau authority is obtained. New Haven should continue to keep abreast of developments insofar as Bentley's progress is concerned and keep the Bureau informed of her attitude, insofar as cooperation with the Bureau is concerned. (U)

~~TOP SECRET~~

SAC, NEW YORK (100-142782)

11/17/61

SAC, NEW HAVEN (105-4320)

NEW YORK SCHOOL FOR MARXIST STUDIES

IS-C

ISA - 1950

(OO: NY)

Re New York airtel to Albany 11/14/61, requesting NHO to furnish the status of availability of ELIZABETH T. BENTLEY along with a proper descriptive category.

On 11/17/61, ELIZABETH T. BENTLEY advised that "I am absolutely not willing to testify" in an proceeding such as indicated in instant case. MISS BENTLEY stated that she was positive about her refusal in this regard and referred to her previous history and position she had reported as reflected in New Haven letters to the Bureau, cc New York, or 5/29/58 and 4/30/59. See NY file (134-182).

It would appear that BENTLEY falls into witness category (j) in view of her previous testimony on behalf of the Government.

BENTLEY now resides on Route 5A, East Hampton, Conn., has no telephone, and is employed as an English teacher at the Long Lane School, (a state of Connecticut institution for wayward girls) at Middletown, Conn., telephone DIamond 6-8674. This individual's identity and background are well known to the Department.

For the information of the New York Office, the NHO has no information as to the background of the captioned subject matter and BENTLEY stated that she had no knowledge of any information dealing with this matter.

RUC.

2 - New York

2 - New Haven (1 - 134-40)

SFD/hmg

(4)

Original in 100-142782

134-182-A-10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, NY

FROM : ASAC J. L. SCHMIT

SUBJECT: ELIZABETH BENTLEY  
SM-C

DATE: 12/3/63

On instant date I furnished the following information to Mr. ANTHONY P. LITRENTO at the Bureau:

Mr. NELSON FRANK, free lance writer and former writer for the New York World Telegram & Sun, advised at 12:45 p.m., 12/3/63, that he had learned that the Associated Press wire had on this date reported that ELIZABETH BENTLEY, 55 years old, died on 12/3/63 at Grace New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut. She entered the hospital on 11/18/63, underwent surgery yesterday (12/2/63), and died presumably this morning according to FRANK. For the last five years she had been connected with the Long Lane School, Middletown, Conn.

1-ASAC J. L. SCHMIT

JLS:HMF  
(2)

134-182-A-11

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FBI - NEW YORK	

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BUFILED 12-3-63 6-53 PM FN

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC NEW YORK 8

FROM SAC NEW HAVEN ✓ 032100

ELIZABETH TERRILL BENTLEY, CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE.

TELEGRAM TO NEW HAVEN, MAY 18, 1959.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND NEW YORK. ELIZABETH BENTLEY  
DIED AT NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL ON THIS DATE AFTER AN OPERATION  
PERFORMED ON PREVIOUS DAY TO REMOVE AN ABDOMINAL TUMOR.  
THE FUNERAL IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON NEXT FROM  
ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME IN MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT.

OF INTEREST TO BUREAU, DURING LAST TWO WEEKS OF TERMINAL  
ILLNESS, BENTLEY, WHO HAD NO CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONS, KEPT  
NEW HAVEN OFFICE FULLY INFORMED OF HER ILLNESS AND DEMONSTRATED  
WARM REGARD AND AFFECTION TOWARD BUREAU TO THE END.

END ACK PLS

E-66 EN MA E -R- NY DE

OEB -

b2

200-137-422

DEFERRED 12-3-63 6-53 PM FN

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC NEW YORK 8  
FROM SAC NEW HAVEN ✓ 032100

ELIZABETH TERRILL BENTLEY, CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE.

REBULET TO NEW HAVEN, MAY 18, 1959.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND NEW YORK. ELIZABETH BENTLEY  
DIED AT NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL ON THIS DATE AFTER AN OPERATION  
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THE FUNERAL IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON NEXT FROM  
ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME IN MIDDLETON, CONNECTICUT.

OF INTEREST TO BUREAU, DURING LAST TWO WEEKS OF TERMINAL  
ILLNESS, BENTLEY, WHO HAD NO CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONS, KEPT  
NEW HAVEN OFFICE FULLY INFORMED OF HER ILLNESS AND DEMONSTRATED  
MANY REGARD AND AFFECTION TOWARD BUREAU TO THE END.

END ACK PLS

6-55 PM WA R -S- NY DE

134-1821  
12  
JUN  
b7c